



**FRIENDS OF THE  
PAGE-WALKER HOTEL**

Cary National Register Historic Districts & Properties

# What Have We Got to Lose?

**2013 ANNUAL REVIEW**

**Friends of the Page-Walker Program Series**

This program covers:

- The Nancy Jones House, in a “class of its own”;
- Cary’s three historic districts (Green Level, Carpenter and Town Center);
- Other historic properties in and around Cary, outside of the historic districts; and
- Along the way, we will note some properties that already are gone, some that have been saved, and any that we know to be at immediate risk.

This program represents our 2013 presentation and does not include all Cary historic properties.

## **Nancy Jones house**

**9391 Chapel Hill Rd.**

**Ca. 1803**



This is the oldest surviving home in the Cary area. The Nancy Jones house is one of three Cary properties individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is in excellent condition, despite being more than 200 years old. A windmill is the only major missing feature from the original house. The front porch area burned in the 2000s and has been replaced. In the late 1700s, Nathaniel Jones of White Plains owned most of the land that is now eastern Cary. Nathaniel Jones of Crabtree owned most of the land that now is western Cary. It was difficult to keep up with the Joneses in those days! Nancy Jones,

namesake of this house, united the two Jones families when she – of the Nathaniel Jones of White Plains line – married a descendent of Nathaniel Jones of Crabtree line. Built around 1803, this is the oldest house in the Cary area. This house served as the primary stagecoach stop and tavern on the Raleigh-Chapel Hill-Hillsborough route in the antebellum period. According to legend, this house was the site of a meeting in 1838 at which the governor of NC said these famous words to the governor of SC: “It’s been a damn long time between drinks”.

President James K. Polk visited the Nancy Jones house.

**Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel**

**Box 4234, Cary, NC 27519**

**(919) 460-4963**

**email: [info@friendsofpagewalker.org](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org)**

**[www.friendsofpagewalker.org](http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org)**

## GREEN LEVEL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The name, Green Level, originated many years ago when native American Indians lived here. It is said to have started from the comments of an old Indian chief when one day he was standing near the crossroads looking across the land. The chief remarked, "It is green and level." The community reportedly got its name from this remark.

### **A. M. & Vallaria Council farm**

**8700 Green Level Church Rd.**

**Ca. late 19th/Early 20th century**

The farmhouse that remains appears to have been built in the late 19th century. According to local residents, this property was built by and associated with prominent area farmer, A. M. (also known as Alphonso or "Phonnie") Council and his wife, Vallaria. A. M. Council was described in one newspaper account as "a gentleman noted for the large sales of his famous bright tobacco" and "one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of the Green Level section". The house has been abandoned and deteriorating for several years. It seems likely to be lost in the near future.



### **Alious H. & Daisey Mills farm & store**

**3529 Beaver Dam Rd.**

**Ca. 1916**

This well-preserved farm consists of a prominent farmhouse, a store building and a large collection of domestic and farm buildings. Alious H. Mills is said to have managed the Johnson and Mills store (no longer standing) at the Green Level crossroads before building this house and another store on this property just to the north of the crossroads around 1916. The 1920 census lists Mills, aged 39, as a retail merchant of a general store. He lived on the property with his wife, Daisey, two sons, Kenneth and Willard, and his brother, Eugene. The viewshed across Green Level Church Road from the Church, which is part of the Mills property, has been preserved with a conservation easement by property owners Bill and Mary Mills.



### **Vick Council rental house**

**8400 Green Level Church Rd.**

**Ca. early 20th century**

**Lost 2012**

This house probably was built around the turn of the century. According to owner Carl Ferrell, the house was owned for some time as rental property by Green Level merchant Vick Council, who operated the store once adjacent to the house. Alious Mills is said to have lived in this house with his family before building his house and store. In 2012, the owner had the house demolished.



## **Vick & Mattie Council house**

**3525 Green Level Road West**

**Ca. 1890; Lost 2000s**

**Only chimney & outbuilding remain**

The house apparently was lost to fire in the 2000s; documentation from the 2000s indicates that it still existed at that time. The property is associated with Vick Council, who operated a store in Green Level, and his wife, Mattie.

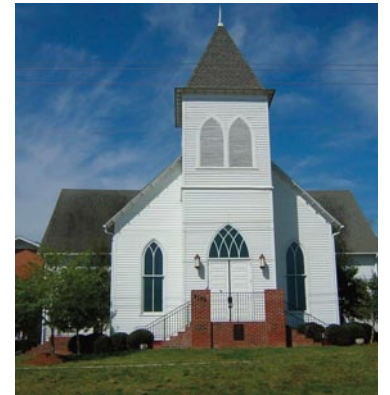


## **Green Level Baptist Church**

**8509 Green Level Church Rd.**

**Ca. 1907; 1920; 1975**

The Green Level Baptist Church property includes the church building, cemetery, and a modern parsonage and carport. Green Level Baptist is one of the best remaining examples of rural church architecture in Wake County. Its Gothic Revival style was popular for churches of this period. Originally known as Providence Baptist Church, Green Level Baptist Church was organized in 1870 and adopted its current name shortly after. The church's first building, which was shared with the Green Level Masonic Lodge for more than 3 decades, was constructed in 1872 on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Council. The church's first pastor was the Rev. Matthew S. Ferrell, who served for 15 years.



## **Kenneth & Reba Mills house**

**8425 Green Level Church Rd.**

**Ca. 1930s**

This house and surrounding outbuildings were built by Kenneth and Reba Mills, probably in the 1930s, across Green Level Church Road from the house and store owned by Kenneth's father, Alious Mills. After Alious Mills retired, Kenneth operated the store for a number of years and later ran the Green Level Community store at the crossroads. In 2013, construction of a new development has impacted the property, although the house will remain.



## **Green Level community store**

**8401 Green Level Church Rd.**

**Ca. 1945; 1970; 1990s;**

**Lost 2010**

This small store building was said to have been built around 1945 by Albert Council when he returned from WW II. Operated as a store until around 2000, the building became part of a landscaping and nursery business known as Cloer Nursery Co. In 2010, The Green Level Community store building was demolished. Cloer Nursery has built a new building that is somewhat reminiscent of the old store, but the original store is lost.





## A. C. & Helon Council house

3609 Green Level Road West

Ca. late 19th century; early 20th century; second half 20th century

The house is associated with the Council family. The 1920 census shows widow Helon Council living in this house with school-teacher daughters Bettie and Enid, as well as son, George, who was listed as a salesman. Local residents often refer to this house as the home of sisters Bettie and Beatrice Council, who occupied the home for many years in the 20th century. The wellhouse is a contributing structure ca. 1910.



## CARPENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

There are some farmers in this area, and in 30 years or so, the railroad will come through and a new store will open at this place that people call Carpenter Crossroads. There will be a boarding house, more farms and houses and at least one more store in this area at around the turn of the century. The Carpenter Historic District consists of a commercial crossroads and surrounding residences, farmsteads and community buildings. Cary annexed most of Carpenter in the late 1980s. Development pressures threaten the rural nature of the Carpenter community.

## William Henry Carpenter boarding house

3041 Carpenter-Upchurch Rd.

Ca. late 19th/early 20th century

This house likely was built before the Carpenter Farm Supply Company and is said to have been used as a boarding house for railroad and other workers.



## William Henry Carpenter house

3040 Carpenter-Upchurch Rd.

Ca. 1910

William Henry Carpenter was the first store owner in Carpenter and this was his house.



## Carpenter Farm Supply Company

1933 Morrisville-Carpenter Rd.

Ca. 1895, 1916, 1983

The focal point of the crossroads is the Carpenter Farm Supply Company. Built by William Henry Carpenter, the store consists of a ca. 1895 section and brick section added in 1916. It is the most substantial early 20th-century store building in rural Wake County, and Carpenter family descendants still own and operate the farm supply business. During his life, William Henry Carpenter served as deputy sheriff, a member of the school board and postmaster – the original Carpenter post office remains in the Carpenter Farm Supply store. Dale Carpenter, the store's owner, noted that he was concerned about transportation changes, including the closing of Carpenter-Upchurch Road and closing the nearby railroad crossing, because they could isolate the store and the historic district. This property was designated a Wake County Landmark in 2010.



## Carpenter Store

SW Corner, Morrisville-Carpenter & Carpenter-Upchurch Rd.

Ca. late 19th century; early 20th century; mid- 20th century; 1990

Immediately across the street from Carpenter Farm Supply is a second Carpenter store. Strong local and Carpenter family tradition holds that the building, referred to by some long-time residents as the "Union Hall", was built in the late 19th century to serve as a farmers' cooperative store, with an upstairs meeting room for a farmers' organization. It is also said to have served as a Masonic lodge for the Junior Order of Masons in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Records of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union indicate that a local chapter met in Carpenter from 1912 until at least 1920. This property was designated a Wake County Landmark in 2010.



## D. Judson Clark Machine & Garage

S. side, Morrisville-Carpenter Rd.

Ca. 1920

D. Judson ("Judd") Clark is said to have built this structure for use as a machine shop. The building was used in the 1930s as an automobile garage and car dealership. Various members of the Russell family owned the property in the latter half of the 20th century. The current tenants still operate an automobile repair shop in the building.



## C. F. Ferrell rental house

1921 Morrisville-Carpenter Rd.

Ca. 1900

Lost 2010

This turn-of-the-century house was demolished around 2010. According to Dale Carpenter, the house had deteriorated badly and was leaking. A tenant who had rented the house for office space offered to make repairs in lieu of rent payments, but the tenant and the owner could not reach agreement and the house finally was condemned and demolished.



## C. F. Ferrell store & warehouses

N. side, Morrisville-Carpenter Rd.

East of RR tracks

Ca. 1916

Built to replace an earlier store building, this is another excellent example of the country store. For many years, C. F. Ferrell operated his store in partnership with Mallie Butts. In addition to the general merchandise business, from the 1910s through the early 1930s he operated a lumber and planing mill business, as well as a cotton gin, in partnership with his sons. Ferrell went out of business during the early years of the Depression. Various owners ran the store until the 1960s, after which it housed an antique business. The building was moved a few feet to the east of its original location next to the tracks when Morrisville-Carpenter Road was straightened in the 1940s. It is said that the Carpenter post office would move between Carpenter Farm Supply and the Ferrell store, depending





upon which party (Democrat or Republican) was in power at the time. Two warehouses stand behind the store. The first warehouse was built as a storage facility for Ferrell's store. The second warehouse stored fertilizer. It was moved across the railroad tracks to this location in the 1920s. In 2009, the Town of Cary purchased these properties and a park is planned for this site in the future. The buildings will be maintained and integrated into the park.

### **Byrd-Ferrell house**

**N. of junction of Morrisville-Carpenter Rd. & Carpenter Fire Station Rd.**

**Ca. 1900**

This house is said to have been owned by the Byrd family until it was purchased around 1906 by C. F. Ferrell and his family.



### **Byrd Tenant houses**

**6716 & 6720 Carpenter Fire Station Rd.**

**Ca. early 20th century**

These two tenant houses originally were nearly identical and were owned by the Byrd family.

Their similarities can be seen even though one is largely original and one has been updated.



### **Mallie & Cora Butts farm**

**1604 Morrisville-Carpenter Rd.**

**Ca. late 19th Century; 1930s; late 20th century**

Mallie Butts is known as C. F. Ferrell's partner in the general store business from at least 1909 through 1914. He shows up in later years as the community's undertaker. Local residents remember that the undertaker's business was located directly across the Morrisville-Carpenter Road from this house. That building no longer stands. Later, Butts moved his undertaking business to Apex. It was the precursor to Apex Funeral Home, a business still in operation.



### **Bill Sears house**

**1600 Morrisville-Carpenter Rd.**

**Ca. 1905; 1980s**

Build ca. 1905 by Bill Sears, this house was later owned by members of the Butts family for some time. Omer and Betty Lou Ferrell bought the property from the Butts family in the 1960s and operated an active farm here until recent years. Omer died in 1996 and Betty Lou still lives on the property.

According to a conversation with Betty Lou Ferrell in May 2006, the cabin on the property was moved from another property so that it would be saved. Betty Lou Ferrell is at least the fourth generation to live in this area and is related to the Upchurches, Ferrells and Williamses from this area.



## Barbee-Williams farm

N. side, Morrisville-Carpenter Rd., 0.2 mi. east of Good Hope Church Rd.

Ca. 1900

Lost 2000s

William Barbee built the house around 1900. William Barbee was Betty Lou Ferrell's great-grandfather. Barbee and his second wife, pictured here (his first wife was killed in a buggy accident), had a daughter, also pictured here. Barbee and both of his sons fought in the Civil War. The house was demolished in the 2000s to make way for the Carpenter Village Legacy subdivision.



## A. M. Howard farm

1580 Morrisville-Carpenter Rd.

Ca. early 20th century

Probably built in the 1910s, the farm was bought by A. M. Howard in the 1930s and he farmed tobacco here until recent years. Twelve outbuildings, including two tobacco curing barns, a tobacco strip room and a packhouse, stand behind the house. A current development plan had threatened the A. M. Howard Farm, and in 2007, this property was listed as "At Risk" by the Friends. We are pleased to report that the Town of Cary has purchased the A. M. Howard farm, including vacant land across Morrisville-Carpenter Road, to be preserved under the Town's open space and historic resources preservation program. The current plan is for the farm to serve as an agricultural park with an agricultural history educational facility.



## C. F. Ferrell farm

1132 Morrisville-Carpenter Rd.

Ca. 1900

The farmhouse was built by C.F. Ferrell around the turn of the century. A few years after building this house, Ferrell moved with his family to a house in the village of Carpenter and opened a general store. The farm is still owned by descendants of C. F. Ferrell, and a fifth-generation descendent continues to operate this property as a working farm. Fourteen outbuildings for tobacco processing and other agriculture functions are scattered behind the house. On August 28, 2003, the C. F. Ferrell farm was granted a Voluntary Agricultural District designation. Such a designation helps to protect the rural farm way of life and enhances farmland (and hence open space) preservation. The Friends thus count this as a "rescued" property, as it is currently maintained in its historic condition, although it has no long-term binding preservation status.





## TOWN CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Dwellings throughout the district range in age from the 1890s to around 1945.

### Esther Ivey house (& shed)

a.k.a. "Raven House"

302 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1890, 2009

Known locally as the Esther Ivey house for the long-time Cary resident who lived in the house for most of the twentieth century, this house is said to have been occupied in the late nineteenth century by A.R. Raven, first pastor of the First Methodist Church. By 2010, the house had fallen into a poor state of repair. In 2009, the house was purchased by Michael and Alexia Joyce to be rehabilitated and converted to commercial use. It was restored and converted to a bridal shop and won an Anthemion Award in 2009. A long-time Cary resident remarked, "I think Ms. Esther would have been pleased with the purple door".



### Henry Adams house

320 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1950, 1975

This house was built and owned for many years by Henry Adams, the owner of a downtown drugstore (which became Ashworth's Drug Store in 1957). Henry Adams was an educator and former North Carolina Commissioner of Labor. His son Charlie, who grew up in the house, was Executive Director of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.



### James Jones house

a.k.a. Wiley Jones House

324 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1890

This house was built in the late 19th century by James Jones, associate of Frank Page and a prominent local merchant and landowner, and was occupied at various times by several principals and students of Cary High School. It was later owned by Wiley Jones and his wife for more than 30 years. It also was owned by Solomon S. Pool, president of UNC when it closed in 1870 in the aftermath of the Civil War. This property had been for sale since 2009; in 2011, the Town of Cary purchased the property and is in the process of restoring it. The Town intends to place a preservation easement on the house and lease it to a private business (the current plan is that Larry's Beans coffee shop will be the initial tenant). The Friends are pleased that this very special property is now saved via public ownership by the Town of Cary.





## Guess-Ogle house (& garage)

a.k.a. Capt. Harrison P. Guess House (NR)

215 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1830s, 1900, 1990

Built in several stages beginning in the mid-19th century, this house is the most prominent dwelling on S. Academy Street. Railroad "roadmaster" Captain Harrison P. Guess and his wife, Aurelia, purchased the property from Frank Page in 1880. The house was expanded and remodeled by John White, a Baptist minister, who purchased the property in 1896. Local tradition holds that White added the tower so that he could look out over the town while writing his sermons. Mr. and Mrs. N.G. Yarborough, parents of Dr. Frank W. Yarborough, are said to have owned the property for many years. Their son's former home and office are on an adjacent lot. The property had several owners in the late 20th century. The current owners, Carroll and Sheila Ogle, restored the house to its former glory and reside in the home. In 2006, the Ogles participated in one of the Friends' historic preservation programs to describe their experiences with restoring this historic structure. Among many other things, we learned, according to Carroll, that the house is not pink, but rather "rosario". This house has a preservation easement and was designated as a Wake County Landmark in 2008.



## Dr. Frank W. Yarborough house

219 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1935

The house was built around 1935 for Dr. Yarborough, a prominent local physician and mayor of Cary, elected in 1927. His brother, Dr. John A. Yarborough, was a dentist in Wake Forest and served as mayor of that town. The wing on the south side of the house originally housed Dr. Yarborough's office. This section, which faces E. Park Street, retains two front doors that mark the segregated entrances for the doctor's black and white patients.



## Pasmore house (& shed)

307 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1900, 2006

This house served as a boarding house for students of Cary High School in the 20th century. The house was beautifully renovated in 2006. It was sold in 2009 and is currently Stonehaven Jewelry Gallery.



## Dr. John P. Hunter house (& chicken house)

311 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1925

Dr. Hunter was a practicing physician and the son of the Reverend A. D. Hunter, an early Baptist minister. He practiced medicine in Cary from 1920 to 1959. Hunter was also the president of the Cary Chamber of Commerce, served on the Cary Town Board and the Wake County Board of Education and was a member of the Cary Masonic Lodge. The rectangular, shed-roofed frame building served as a chicken house. Yes, Cary allowed chickens in town in the early 20th century too! This house was designated as a Wake County Landmark in 2008.



## Marcus Baxter Dry house

400 Faculty Ave.

Ca. 1900

This house was the home of Marcus Baxter Dry, long-time principal of Cary High School. Born in Union County, Marcus Baxter Dry attended Wake Forest College and returned to his home county to serve as principal of Wingate High School (now Wingate University), a private boarding school. In the course of a 52-year career in education, Dry was known as an innovative educator and an advocate of vocational education. John and Sandra Duncan bought the home in the 1960s and painstakingly restored it. John is a former Town Councilman and a former member of the board of directors of the Friends of the Page-Walker. This National Register of Historic Places plaque placed through the plaque program of the Friends of the Page-Walker was the ceremonially placed “first plaque” for this program.



## Unnamed houses

208 S. Harrison, 302 S. Harrison

These houses are contributing structures in the Town Center historic district.



## Unnamed house (& garage)

212 S. Harrison

This house and the accompanying garage were demolished in 2007. It was not known to be at risk and its rapid demolition – literally there one day and gone the next – was a surprise.



## Coggin-Taylor house

326 S. Harrison Ave.

Ca. 1922

This bungalow was owned by J. F. Coggins, a professor at NC State.





## Woodlief house

400 S. Harrison Ave.

Ca. 1926

This house was home for many years to Terrine Woodlief, one of Cary's most active citizens. Her family, the Hollemans, owned the land that is now MacGregor Downs. Ms. Woodlief moved to Cary with her family when she was ten years old and returned here after her retirement from teaching. She became involved in public service as a founding member of the XYZ seniors club, a member of the Cary Women's Club, Daughters of the American Revolution and many other civic and professional organizations. Woodlief died at age 105 in 2001.



## Garage at former Methodist parsonage and unnamed houses

318 S. Academy, 116 W. Park, 120 W. Park

These houses are contributing structures in the Town Center historic district. The house at 318 S. Academy, originally a First Methodist Church parsonage, is a non-contributing structure because of extensive alterations. The garage remains a contributing building, which goes to show that other structures besides a main home can be contributing buildings in a historic district. The properties at 116 W. Park and 120 W. Park are owned by First Baptist Church and used for church functions.



## Unnamed houses

107 W. Park, 307 S. Harrison, 209 S. Academy

These houses are contributing structures to the Town Center historic district. The house at 307 S. Harrison was part of the original Batts Dairy.



## Unnamed houses

**111 W. Park, 106 Dry, 110 Dry, 114 Dry**

These houses are contributing structures to the Town Center historic district. The house at 110 Dry Ave. was the home of Baxter Jones, son of Wiley Jones. The house at 114 Dry Ave. was the home of Ian Meacham, a professor at NC State. In 2011, the house at 111 W. park house was significantly expanded and renovated, such that the current structure bears almost no resemblance to the original. Although the Friends are not aware of any official change in National Register of Historic Places designation, it is likely that this structure would no longer qualify as a contributing structure to the Town Center Historic District if it were re-evaluated.



## Chabad house

**115 W. Park St.**

**Ca. 1930**

Unlike most historic houses, this house was not named for a person or family. The homeowners chose the name "Chabad" when the historic plaque was placed at the home. "Chabad" is associated with Judaism.

In 2011, this house was expanded, although the original structure remained largely intact and the additions are compatible with the original.

Although the Friends are not aware of any official change in National Register of Historic Places designation, it is unclear whether or not this structure would still qualify as a contributing structure to the Town Center Historic District if it were re-evaluated.



## Unnamed house

**112 Dry Avenue**

This was Dr. Frank Yarborough's house before he moved to Academy Street. The Yarboroughs had an 8-year-old daughter who died while resident here. She lay in state in the front room. There is a bust of her at her grave in Hillcrest cemetery. This house was restored in 2009, and the back yard hosts Downtown Cary's community garden.





## Heater house

120 Dry Ave.

Ca. 1918, 1947, 2008

Some documentation indicates that contractor S. R. Lee built the house for Russell O. Heater and his wife Jessie, based on plans obtained from Better Homes and Gardens; however, Bob Heater tells us that the house was built in 1922 [Wake County property records say 1918] but not for his father and he had never heard that it was a "Better Homes & Gardens plan". Russell Heater founded Heater Drilling Company (now Heater Well Company) and served on the Wake County Board of Commissioners. He also worked tirelessly on behalf of other organizations and charities in Cary. In 2010, the house was renovated and is available for commercial use.



## Former Cary High

Also former Cary Elementary

100 Dry Ave.

Ca. 1939, 1950s, 2010

This former high school building sits on the highest point in Cary. Built in 1939 by the Works Progress Administration for \$132,000, this brick building is the last of a succession of school buildings that were located on this same site. Founded in 1907 after the General Assembly passed legislation creating a system of public high schools in NC, Cary High School was the first public high school in Wake County – and believed to be the first in the state under the 1907 law. The success of the school was due in no small part to Marcus Baxter Dry, principal from 1908 to 1942. Under Dry's leadership, the school began offering academic subjects as well as vocational agriculture, home economics and teacher training. For awhile, the school even had a model farm, the E. N. Meekins Farm Life School; a barn from this complex is still visible behind 510 Walnut St. In 2006, the school was purchased by the Town of Cary for use as a cultural and performing arts center. In 2008, work began on the conversion to an arts center. The front porch columns, which were replacements installed by the Wake County Public School System, were replaced with authentic Ionic columns in keeping with the originals. The replacement metal windows also were replaced with authentic ones in keeping with the originals. The brick posts in front of the school pre-date the current building; they were constructed along with the previous school on this site. In 2011, the renovation was completed. After much debate and much public input, the Cary Town Council officially christened the newly repurposed building "Cary Arts Center". Town Staff began moving into the building in May 2011 and it opened to the public in July 2011, with a formal rededication in August 2011. At the dedication ceremony, the Friends placed a memento in the time capsule that was embedded in the building's new cornerstone; we also presented an in-depth history of the building, and we can give that full presentation to community groups who would like to learn more about this place.



## Hobby-Bliss house (& garage)

115 Dry Ave.

Ca. 1940, 2007

This was Glenn Hobby's house; his wife was a Jones. They were the parents of Jean Hobby Ladd, although she grew up in the house next door. The house was beautifully restored in 2007 and won an Anthemion Award in 2008.



## Weaver house (& garage)

119 Dry Ave.

Ca. 1922

This house was built by R.O. Heater. Bob Heater and his older sister were born in the front bedroom. Mr. Heater declared bankruptcy in 1930 after an accountant embezzled from him. They sold the house and moved to the Nancy Jones house for a time. This is the house that Jean Ladd grew up in. It currently is owned by Maurice Weaver, a long-time supporter of the Friends.



## Beddingfield house (& garage)

121 Dry Ave.

Ca. 1930, 2006

This was the Beddingfield house. It was occupied for many years by Clarence and Sybil Beddingfield. Clarence Beddingfield was the North Carolina Assistant Secretary of Labor. . Mrs. Beddingfield taught 8th grade for many years at Cary High School and was one of the world's great teachers of English grammar. The house and garage were beautifully restored in 2006.



## OTHER TOWN CENTER STRUCTURES OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

### Dr. S. P. Waldo house

Temporarily located on Park Street

Unoccupied for many years, this house was built for Dr. Waldo, who arrived in Cary in 1873 as the third practicing doctor in town. Dr. Waldo charged patients \$1 for local visits and \$1 per mile for country calls. Dr. Waldo built Cary's first drugstore and planted vacant lots around town with cotton. His house was the meeting place for the Methodist Church before the church was constructed. After Waldo's death in 1891, the house passed through several hands and received several small additions over the years and eventually was owned by First United Methodist Church. The Waldo house is one of Cary's most important structures, being one of only two examples of board-and-batten Gothic Revival buildings in Wake County (the Ivey-Ellington-Waddell house is the other). The Waldo house was "mothballed" for many years, then moved in December 2007 to a temporary site, Town-owned property on E. Park St., where its exterior has been restored. The interior restoration is planned to take place after the house reaches its final new destination, which is beside the new Mayton Inn that is planned for construction nearby. The Waldo House will serve as a rental suite associated with the Mayton Inn. In general, historic preservation is best served when a structure remains on its original site in its original historic context, and moving structures is typically not a preferred option, but rather a last resort. For the Waldo House, moving the building was the only practical way to save it, so the Friends are pleased that this important structure has been saved and we believe that the planned use is an appropriate way to honor its history. Prior to the move, the Friends spent two weekends cleaning out two very large dumpster loads of trash from the house in 2006, preparing it for its upcoming move and saving Cary taxpayers about \$1,500. The Friends efforts helped to ensure that the Waldo House did not appear in





the “What We’ve Already Lost” section of a future presentation. Many organizations were involved in saving the Waldo House, chief among them the Town of Cary, First United Methodist Church, Capital Area Preservation and the Friends. In March 2008, the Friends held a program dedicated to reviewing the Waldo House move. More details about that move are available.

### **Ivey-Ellington-Waddell house**

**135 W. Chatham St.**

**Ca. 1870, 2005**

Perhaps the town’s most architecturally significant house, the Ivey-Ellington-Waddell house is one of only 2 board-and-batten Gothic Revival structures in Wake County (the Waldo house is the other).

John Ellington, a business associate of Frank Page, built the house in the early 1870s. Esther Ivey (of the Ivey-Raven house) lived here as a child. The house was beautifully restored in 2005 and in May 2009, this property was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, becoming Cary’s third individually listed property. In 2011, the Town of Cary purchased the property. Although specific plans for its future use are still to be developed, the intent is for the building to serve a public purpose and in the near future, the Friends and the Town expect to use the second floor of the house for much-needed expansion space to house our ever-growing collection of historical archives.



### **Lovie Jones house**

**208 S. Academy St.**

**Ca. 1920s – 1930s**

**Lost 2010**

This was the home of Marvin and Lovie Jones. Marvin was the son of Wiley Jones and was the Truant Officer for the Wake County Schools. He was also an agent for the Apex Funeral Home. With the addition of the septic tank, the Jones House was reputed to be one of the first houses in Cary to have this “modern convenience”. In May 2010, this house was demolished. It was owned by First Baptist Church and, like the Church-owned house on S. Harrison that appeared earlier in this program, was there one day and gone the next, and no one seemed to be aware of any plans to demolish it. Regarding the demolition, Kay Struffolino, long-time Cary resident and community volunteer, contacted the Friends and wrote, “What a shame but the saddest moment for me was meeting a former pastor of the church in front of the post office who had no idea it was to be done and he was nearly in tears.....he said he did the funeral of the Jones lady who used to own it back in the 70s”.



## Mayton house

204 S. Academy St.

Ca. late 19th century/1920s

Robert Mayton helped build the new campus of Meredith College. A self-educated man, he served as Cary's mayor in 1937 for 10 years, which was as long as his immediate seven predecessors combined. In 2011, the Town of Cary purchased this property. The house is planned to be moved to a new site beside the Mayton Inn that is planned for construction nearby. The Mayton House will serve as the residence for the innkeepers of the Mayton Inn. In general, historic preservation is best served when a structure remains on its original site in its original historic context, and moving structures is typically not a preferred option, but rather a last resort. For the Mayton House, moving the building was the only practical way to save it, so the Friends are pleased that this important structure has been saved and we believe that the planned use is an appropriate way to honor its history.



## Breeze house

413 Kildaire Farm Rd.

Ca. late 19th century

The house is a typical post-Civil War dwelling. Owners of this house once had crops of corn, potatoes and sugar cane across Walnut Street. The front part of the house was added shortly after the turn of the century.

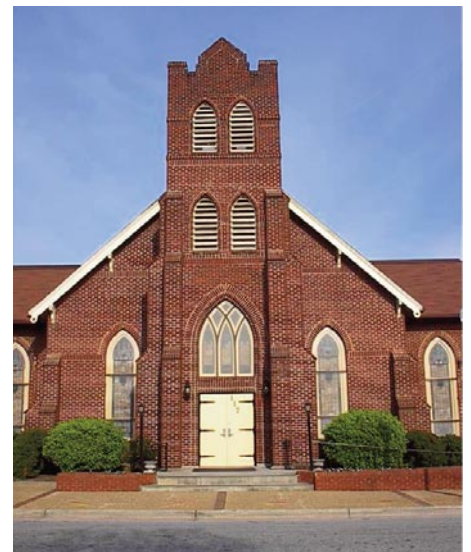


## First Methodist Church

117 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1872, 1923

First Methodist is the oldest organized church in Cary, established by 12 families, with a frame building erected on this site some time after the congregation's 1872 organization. That building had a proud steeple housing a bell salvaged from a fire at Greensboro. Lumberman Frank Page set aside some of his best heart of pine for the construction of the first Church building. The current structure was heavily remodeled in 1923. First Methodist also previously owned the Waldo house and donated it to the Town.





## First Baptist Church

317 S. Academy St.

Ca. 1926, 1968 additions

First Baptist Church was established by R.D. Blackwood in 1874 with a small frame building on another nearby site. According to Around and About Cary, First Baptist expelled 24 members in 1914 for a variety of shortcomings, including drinking, dancing, failing to attend meetings, and failing to help pay the pastor's salary. The brick sanctuary was completed in 1926 at a cost of \$26,100. As the church continued to grow, more buildings were constructed adjacent to the sanctuary. By the 1960s, the membership had once again outgrown the church, and a newer sanctuary, in a slightly updated Neoclassical Revival style, was built to the north of the 1926 building.



## Matthews House

317 W. Chatham St.

Ca. 1920s

The Matthews House, a stately, Greek Revival mansion, is owned and was restored by Friends of the Page-Walker Carroll & Sheila Ogle, who also restored the Guess-Ogle house. The Matthews House now hosts banquets, weddings, receptions and other special events. A separate reception hall was added to the rear of the Matthews House in 2005.



## Ashworth Drug Store

105 W Chatham St.

Ca. 1931

Completed in only 90 days, this store was the largest building in town, built for \$6,600. Dedicated in 1931, this building housed several businesses as well as the Masonic Lodge on the second floor. Of all the other buildings occupying the intersection of Chatham and Academy in the past 50 years, this is the only one still standing. Ashworth Drug Store still operates a lunch counter and soda fountain. In 2012, Ashworth Drug celebrated its 55th anniversary; long-time Friends of the Page-Walker Ralph and Daphne Ashworth purchased the store from Henry Adams in 1957.



## Everybody's Store

122 W. Chatham St.

Ca. 1900

Everybody's Store sold general merchandise. The brick store is characteristic of urban buildings erected in the 1900s. Here's another one of those unsolved mysteries: The mural behind Ashworth's Drug Store labels this building the "Evryday Store"



## The Cary Theater

122 E. Chatham St.

Ca. 1940s

The Town of Cary purchased this property, Cary's original movie theater, in 2010. The building is being renovated to serve as a multi-use cultural facility with a focus on digital arts, including film and youth and amateur theater and music. A three-story building is being constructed adjacent to the theater to provide additional support space and the potential for community and commercial uses, including rental/lease space.

The property was once home to the town's first indoor movie theatre, which hosted live performances as well as films. It has also been used as a clothing store, auto parts store and recording studio. The theater project official groundbreaking occurred on December 1, 2012 and it is planned to open in 2014.



## Page-Walker Hotel

119 Ambassador Loop

Ca. 1868, 1985

Smokehouse Ca. 1840

This historic jewel of Cary was nearly lost to age and neglect (although you wouldn't know that from being in the building today). A rare, small-town example of Second Empire architecture, the hotel was constructed by Allison Francis "Frank" Page to serve passengers on the NC and Chatham railroads. In 1854, Frank and Kate Page bought about 300 acres of land that included the present site of downtown's Town Hall campus. Frank Page sold the hotel



to the Walker family in 1884. Meals were available to travelers until 1916. Starting in 1922, Nancy Walker's grandchildren rented rooms to Cary High School teachers and students. In 1985 it was purchased by the Town of Cary, leased to the Friends of the Page-Walker, renovated and converted into an arts and history center. A smokehouse on the property is the only surviving structure from the Frank and Kate Page homestead, which burned in 1970. It was moved 100 yards to its present site. An herb garden was planted and maintained around the smokehouse by the Friends. Anne Kratzer founded the non-profit Friends of the Page-Walker in 1985. The process of turning the old hotel into a center that draws about 25,000 people a year for exhibits, classes, special events and other activities took half a decade, hundreds of thousands of dollars and countless volunteer hours, in partnership with the Town of Cary. This property is one of the five special "LDIFOB" properties; it is a Wake County Landmark and individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Page-Walker received Capital Area Preservation's Anthemion Award in 1994. Page-Walker supervisor Kris Carmichael and Town Staff continue to lovingly care for the building. An example is the recent painstaking restoration of the second-floor exterior doors.



## OTHER HISTORIC PROPERTIES OUTSIDE DISTRICTS

### Lane-Bennett Place

Originally Regency Park

Moved To 7408 Ebenezer Church Rd., Raleigh

Ca. 1775, 1880, 1981, 2005

Originally located in Regency Park, where the 2000 Regency Parkway Building is now located, the Lane Bennett Place was bought by developer Jeff Sugg from the heirs of the house -- all 95 of them!

The Cary Historic Society and Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina tried to find a new location for the house in Cary, but failed, so Sugg gave the house to Ruth Little, who moved it to 7408 Ebenezer Church Road in Raleigh. The Georgian-style farmhouse, now a private residence, is one of the oldest buildings in Wake County. An addition was incorporated in the house in the 2000s; it took a year to have the addition approved by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission, and the addition remains faithful to the style of the original house.



### Yates-Futrell house

Futrell Drive

Ca. 1800?; 1820?; & later

Friends Historic Preservation Committee members Brent Miller and Bob Myers were fortunate to be guests of owner Ms. Anne Futrell for a guided tour and extensive discussion of this house and property in September 2010. According to Ms. Futrell, the Futrells moved here in 1970. The Yates-Futrell house sits on a 100-acre tract off of Morrisville Parkway, north of the Green Level area. This is believed to be the original homestead for the Yates land grant. When the Futrells



moved here in 1970, the House had been vacant for decades and had animals in it. It has 4 fireplaces. The back portion of house was originally a log cabin – constructed of hand-hewn boards. Lore says that this portion dates to late 1700s. The current back portion of the house was built around the log cabin, then the small room (the one with the small chimney) was added; this was used as the kitchen in the cabin. Later a porch was added, which is now the back portion of the house. The front part of the house (which is now the main house) was added when the family grew – this is believed to be early 1800s. The house foundation is logs on rocks; you can see some brick pillars that later had concrete block filled in to make a solid foundation wall. The house appears to have original heart pine siding and it might have the original tin roof. Some windows and doors appear to be original. There are several other buildings on the site, including 2 small houses and several outbuildings. The little brown house further down the driveway is purported to be the second family house (now covered with asphalt shingle siding). The best outbuilding – the tobacco packhouse – burned in May 2009. It was very large, had hardwood flooring, and contained all the Futrell family antiques – all were lost in the fire. One barn also has been lost, but several outbuildings remain.

## Utley-Council house

4009 Optimist Farm Rd., Apex

Ca. 1830

A prominent landmark along what was once a road to Smithfield, the Utley-Council House was apparently built in the 1820s or 1830s and is a rare example of vernacular Federal architecture in southern Wake County. The 1871 Bevers Map of Wake County shows "A. Utley" residing in approximately this location along the old Smithfield Road just east of a branch flowing into Middle Creek. Lifetime local resident William Powell says that the house was owned for many years by Tom Council who acquired it from his wife's family. Powell recalls that Council, a Civil War veteran, lived to be over one hundred, and died in the early 1930s. This house is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but is outside Cary Town limits (but is within Cary's Planning Jurisdiction).



## Horton-Upchurch farm

Corner Carpenter-Upchurch Rd. & Louis Stephens Rd.  
(was 1005 Upchurch Dead End Rd.)

Ca. 1850s – 1860s

With its late Greek Revival-style house and large complex of frame and log outbuildings, this farm exemplifies the late 19th-century farmstead in Wake County. It was built in the late 1850s or early 1860s by Dr. Charles Horton, and was acquired in 1865 by William B. Upchurch. The farmstead remains in the Upchurch family today, owned by another William Upchurch, who has restored the house faithfully.



## Bartley farm

9701 Penny Rd.

Ca. 1850

This property was purchased by the Town of Cary to be the future site of Bartley Park. Land for this community park was purchased by the Town of Cary in 2000 from N.C. State University, who acquired it from Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Bartley. It is located on Penny Road immediately west of the intersection with Holly Springs Road. Mr. and Mrs. Bartley retained a life estate on the property that allowed them to occupy the property for the remainder of their lives. After this, the life estate terminates and the Town can proceed with plans for the park.





## Maynard-Stone house

2416 Davis Dr. (NE Corner High House Rd. & Davis Dr.)

Ca. 1860, 2010

Moved to 123 Harmony Hill Lane, 2010

It appears that this land was owned by S.W. and Maggie Stone back in the '30s and then willed to their son John A. Stone and his wife Ethel. Later the property passed to Anne Stone Council and it remained in the Council family until a few years ago, when it was sold for development. The property also includes a small, old family cemetery.

When development plans ensued, the developer indicated his intent to preserve both the cemetery and the Maynard-Stone House (with the cemetery remaining undisturbed and the house planned to be moved to 123 Harmony Hill Lane, about 1.5 miles to the South, near the Fenton Estates development). The house was successfully moved and put back together at 123 Harmony Hill Lane in 2010. In 2013, progress toward getting the house back to a habitable state, including the re-installation of the original porch columns is being made.



## G. H. Baucom house

2421 High House Rd.

Ca. 1878

G. H. Baucom built this farmhouse around 1878. Numerous outbuildings, including an original barn and several modern structures, lie beside and behind the house. In 2008, this property was identified by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission as a primary candidate for National Register designation, but the owner declined to pursue this.



## Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church

10530 Penny Rd.

Ca. 1882?

This simple frame church was erected in the mid-to-late nineteenth century for the congregation of Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church on land donated by prominent local resident Barnabus Jones. According to the Swift Creek Baptist Church Web site, "In 1882 a group withdrew [from Swift Creek Baptist Church] and formed the Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church." There is no cemetery here; church members are buried in the cemeteries of the Primitive Baptist churches in Kennebec or Willow Springs in southern Wake County.



## Charlie Sorrell home

a.k.a. Anzonetta Sorrel Place

8626 Mann's Loop Rd., Apex

Ca. 1886

This two-story farmhouse is also known as the Anzonetta Sorrell Place and was constructed in 1886. Home to four generations of the Sorrell family, the 132-acre property is still operated as a farm and lumber business. This home is near the Utley-Council house, along Middle Creek in the southeast corner of Cary.



## J. M. Williams farm

4525 Green Level Rd.

Ca. 1886; 1907

This property lies outside Cary, in Wake County. The picturesque farmhouse, with an array of original outbuildings, is a rare example of rural Queen Anne architecture. This is still a working timber farm; it formerly was a tobacco farm. The main white outbuilding was built in 1886 from timber



harvested from the site and served as the original house. The siding on this building is all original. The glorious main house, with wraparound porch and 3-story tower, surrounded by a low stone fence, was built from 1907 – 1909 by the first J. M. Williams entirely from timber harvested on the property and is all heart pine. The timber was harvested on the property, hauled by mule & cart to a railroad siding, where it was transported by rail to a saw mill, where it was sawn into boards and transported back to the railroad siding. The lumber was air cured and then transported back to the farm by mule & cart to build the home, which took 3 years using this process.

## Upchurch farms

6101 (& 6141) Collins Rd. (Waldo Rood Blvd.)

Ca. late 19th Century

Rufus Merrimon Upchurch Farmhouse moved to

1600 Jenks-Carpenter Rd.;

George Upchurch Farmhouse moved  
across Waldo Rood Blvd.

Despite the severe economic hardships following the Depression in 1893, George Upchurch and his brother Rufus



Merrimon Upchurch were able to build substantial residences on their small adjoining farms by growing the lucrative and increasingly popular bright leaf tobacco. George Upchurch Farms at 6101 Collins Rd. (now Waldo Rood Blvd.) contains the original farmhouse. Upchurch Farms community stands where the Rufus Merrimon Upchurch Farm originally was at 6141 Collins Rd. The Rufus Merrimon Upchurch farmhouse was moved intact, chimneys and all, to its new location on Jenks-Carpenter Road when the Upchurch Farms subdivision was built. Current owner Dale Carpenter (owner of Carpenter Farm Supply, featured earlier in this presentation ) has beautifully restored the original farmhouse. In 2012, the George Upchurch farmhouse was at risk, with no plans to save it as a new development, Collins Grove, proceeded.



As a result of discussion during the rezoning process, the owner, developer, Town of Cary, the Friends and Capital Area Preservation collaborated to save the house by moving it to a site across Waldo Rood Boulevard, where it will be restored, receive a preservation easement and be offered for sale to private buyers. The house was moved to its new site in June 2013; it soon will be situated on a new foundation. Although moving structures typically is considered a "last resort" for preservation, in this case, the move to a site directly across the street preserves the historic context, and so the Friends consider the house saved. The Friends are delighted that this important part of Cary's history will be preserved, and we applaud all the parties involved in making this happen with special thanks to Capital Area Preservation and Gary Roth, CAP's executive director.

## **Bartley & Martha Yates farm**

**10209 Green Level Church Rd.**

**Ca. 1894; 1924**

Located outside of Cary on the Wake-Chatham county line, the Yates farm features an outstanding collection of well preserved outbuildings, in addition to the large farmhouse, and the farm represents one of the most intact turn-of-the-century farm complexes in western Wake County. The outbuildings include a tobacco barn and pack house, where harvested tobacco was cured and moved back and forth between the buildings, depending on its condition (whether or not it was "in order"),

using either the first- or second-story doors on the buildings. The tobacco first went into the pack house and then was transferred to the first floor of the barn if it needed additional processing; after that additional processing, it was moved from the first floor to the second floor of the barn via a trap door. If the tobacco was already "in order" at the pack house, it could be moved directly to the second story of the barn. In the second story of the barn, sticks were used to handle the tobacco and it was bundled and sorted by grades. The sorted tobacco was then moved back down to the first floor of the barn where it was loaded to be transported for sale. Other outbuildings include a horse/mule barn; an ice house (ice blocks were gathered from the pond in winter and usually lasted until mid-summer, providing refrigeration); a meat house, where meat was cured and stored; a wash house, where water was heated in the fireplace to do laundry; and an outhouse, or "Johnny house", which has been repaired by the current owner, as have several of the outbuildings. Earlier we noted that the Yates Farm lies on the Wake-Chatham county line, and we weren't kidding: the county line marker is in the front yard.



## Franklin-Jones farm

6405 Holly Springs Rd.

Ca. 1918

The Jones farmhouse anchors the site, with a few remaining outbuildings. It is believed that the much older Franklin House pre-dates the remaining structures, perhaps dating to the mid-19th century. This property, at the intersection of Cary Parkway and Holly Springs Road, was identified by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission as potentially being threatened by new development. Until recently, the Cary Comprehensive Transportation Plan called for extending Cary Parkway beyond Holly Springs Road, which would have significant impact on this property and served as a barrier to development. Earlier this year, the Cary Parkway extension was removed from the plan, making this land more attractive for development. The property owner has indicated an intent to develop this property but has also indicated interest in preserving the historical structures, so the Friends are hopeful that this site will become a good example of achieving both preservation and progress.



## Kildaire Farm barn

Vicinity of 1389 Kildaire Farm Rd.

Ca. 1920s; Lost 1970s (Farm)/1980s (Barn)

Until the 1970s, there really was a Kildaire Farm in Cary and the late Clyde Keisler – shown near the site of the present-day Boston Market – ran it. The farm was sold for Cary's first planned development – Kildaire Farms. Only that name is preserved from the original property. The farm land was developed in the 1970s; the barn was moved and preserved through the 1980s, serving as a commercial building, but then was demolished. The "twin" of the Kildaire Farms barn, The Wakefield barn, is still standing in Wake County. Visit the Wakefield barn to see what Cary lost. But wait: Here is an unsolved mystery: an authoritative source once told the Friends that the Kildaire Farms Barn actually was taken apart, piece-by-piece, and re-assembled somewhere near Hillsborough. We have not been able to verify that, despite many inquiries. We remain cautiously hopeful.





## Sears farm

Davis Dr. & High House Rd.

Ca. 1920

Lost 2003- 2009

If you haven't been in Cary long, it's understandable if these first pictures are the only way you've ever seen the southeast corner of Davis & High House. But this site once was the picturesque Sears Farm. It was sold in 2007 to be developed as a mixed-use community, called SearStone, including residences for senior citizens. As with Kildaire Farms, only the name will be preserved with the new development. In 2009 the land was cleared and the first building in the planned development, a drug store, was built, followed about a year later by a Bojangles, with residences and other buildings now under construction.



## WPTF Radio transmitter building

833 E. Chatham St.

Ca. 1940

The WPTF Radio Transmitter building is a rare example of streamlined Modern-style architecture in Wake County, and one of the oldest surviving radio transmitter buildings in North Carolina. The building was designed by noted local architect William H. Deitrick. Radio transmissions from this location began in May 1941. WPTF is North Carolina's second-oldest radio station. Originally broadcasting as WRCO, the radio station was purchased by Durham Life Insurance Company in 1927, which changed the call letters to reflect their company slogan: "We Protect The Family", or WPTF. In 2008, this property was identified by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission as among several that are high-priority candidates for National Register designation.

